

Paden City PCE Timeline – WVDEP Involvement

- 8/30/2017: WVDEP was alerted to concerns about PCE contamination in Paden City's water system (source and finished) and reached out to an EPA at that time to officially request support.
- 9/15/2017: EPA sent a suggestion email to Paden City, which encouraged the Paden City Public Works Director to be proactive about taking the necessary steps to notify the public that a contaminant was identified (PCE - Tetrachloroethylene) in the finished water. EPA indicated that it may not be necessary to notify the public since an MCL violation had not occurred. Lew Baker of WVRWA recommended that a letter explaining the situation be sent to the public, and he drafted language for Paden City to use/edit/distribute. EPA essentially recommended (via email) that Paden City send notice to the public.
- Note: EPA Removal Program could not do more than make suggestions and recommendations since this is a SDWA/WVBPH issue.*
- 9/26/2017: Josh Billiter (Paden City Public Works Director) sent an email to Bob Smith of WVDHHR-BPH, indicating that Paden City has identified PCE in the water system, and that a benign message regarding contamination in the water was included in a bill sent to customers.
- 9/29/2017: WVDEP received analytical results, with at least one raw water sample having a PCE concentration of 8.16 ppb. Samples of finished water in the system had PCE analytical results of 0.41 ppb and 0.50 ppb. EPA determined at this time that they would not immediately enact any action, but would keep an eye on analytical as updates from Paden City, WVRWA, and/or WVDEP are provided/available.
- 3/6/2018: WVDEP reached out to Paden City Public Works via email and phone calls attempting to gain a more recent status of the PCE concentrations as indicated by analytical results of source and/or finished water. No response from Paden City.
- Note: Repeated calls from WVDEP to Paden City Public Works (leaving messages requesting information) were made over this interim time period, 3/18 to 8/18.*
- 8/7/2018: WVDEP received an email response from Josh Billiter. Email included several (more recent) analytical data reports pertaining to PCE concentrations as well as other parameters. The results were significantly elevated (both source and finished, with more pronounced increase being finished water) as compared to previous year.
- 8/10/2018: WVDEP received another email update on water analytical data from Paden City Public Works. The results indicated elevated analytical data results for PCE. WVDEP contacted EPA and shared the recent data results. At least one analytical result for a sample of finished water exhibited PCE concentrations over MCL.
- 8/14/2018: WVDEP corresponded with Dan Mace of WVDHHR (West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services - BPH (Bureau for Public Health) Office of Environmental Health Services. Dan explained the protocol for determining a NOV (Notice of Violation) for a contaminant over the MCL (5 ug/L), which requires an annual average of quarterly sample results to exceed the MCL.

- 9/27/2018: USEPA, EPA/START, Paden City Mayor and Public Works (and Thrasher, their engineering contractor), WVDEP, and WVRWA attended a site reconnaissance and meeting at the site. The purpose of the meeting was to begin scoping out a removal evaluation with the goal of characterizing the contamination, and source determination. Also discussed during the meeting were ideas for water system changes and upgrades in order to more immediately remedy the MCL exceedance.
- 11/26/2018: USEPA Removal Evaluation begins. The EPA START contractor installed four (4) monitoring wells, including one (1) located on Paden City High School (Wetzel County Schools) property. Several boreholes were advanced in the area of the suspected source and along the nearby street sewer that included split-spoon soil sampling. Split spoon soil cores were also collected as the monitoring wells were drilled.
- 12/10/2018: The EPA/START Contractor collected groundwater samples from the newly installed monitoring wells, existing water system production wells, and a well located at a nearby glass manufacturing facility.
- 12/14/2018: WVDHHR - BPH issues NOV for MCL exceedance.
- Note: WVDEP did not learn of this NOV until March 2019.*